

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-10 and 33-39 are pending. Claims 11-32 are withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of independent claims 1 and 8-10 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as indefinite, the foregoing amendments in each of these claims delete the words "specific" and "easily" in favor of more definite language. The "specific information" is now defined as the "attached confidential information" and "cannot be accessed easily" is now defined by "cannot be accessed without a dedicated program used by said managing device."

These amendments are supported by the subject matter described at least at paragraphs [0144], [0145] and [0246] of the specification herein.

The other amendments in claims 1 and 8-10 are intended to define the invention in order to distinguish more clearly over the art of record, and in particular the newly cited secondary reference, U.S. Patent No. 7,127,515 to Patterson ("Patterson").

In particular, the amendments specify that the collected device information is converted by the claimed transmission processing section into all of (i) a header indicative of a destination and a title, (ii) attached data that is confidential information indicative of the state of the target device, and (iii) mail data that is non-confidential information indicative of a state of the target device in an electric mail format.

Support for amendments as to the header can be found at least at paragraph [0142] of the specification; and as to the attached data and mail data, at least at paragraphs [0215] and [0246] of the specification.

Applicants also respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 4-10 and 33-39 under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,636,247 to Motoyama et al. ("Motoyama") when combined with Patterson.

The Motoyama reference has been cited previously, and Applicants refer to their comments on its deficiencies in earlier papers.

The Patterson reference describes a way to encourage website usage. In particular, a person using a web browser finds a web page 103 as show in Fig. 3. Rather than simply clicking on a link to another website, a "form" 106 displayed on screen allows the user to insert a request such as "send me information on golf clubs," and then click the submit button 110. This transmits this "user input" to a "remote web-server" that processes this transmitted information to "select and deliver electronic content (e.g. text, graphics, audio, video and executable instructions) via email." (Col. 3, lines 27-29). A user provides his email address in window 108 of the embodiment shown in Figs. 3 and 4 to receive the selected content. The content "may be transmitted as an email attachment 120." (Col. 3, lines 47-48).

The Examiner cites primarily Col. 3, lines 42-54 to supply what he argues to be the subject matter of claim 1 not found in Motoyama.

While Patterson does describe a web-server that selects information and them transmits it as an email attachment, Applicants do not agree that this meets the limitations of pending claim 1, or suggests them, whether alone or in combination, somehow, with Motoyama.

More specifically, the Examiner argues that the collected information includes the user's email address, and a transmission back to this address is the claimed selection and transmission of "mail data." This, however, does not reflect the claimed invention. The address of the recipient of the device information is in Applicants' header M1 shown in Fig. 1. It is not information about the target device that is collected and then selected as M2 mail data or M3 attached data.

Applicants do not find in the cited passages of Patterson any teaching of device information as this term is defined in the application. Nor do they teach any selection among that device information of information to be converted into either mail data and other information to be converted into attached data. Nor do we find a teaching that the attachment 120 of Patterson is used to protect confidential information.

Analyzed in more detail, in the present invention, the header M1 consists of "an address and a subject name" as shown in Figure 1. Furthermore, mail data M2 (described in paragraph [0133] and Table 1 of the specification) consists of non-secret information (non-confidential information) in electric mail format that shows information indicative of a state of a management target device (corresponding to the "target device" of claim 1) that is managed by a managing device (name of machine etc.)

The term "non-confidential information" is not specifically recited in the specification. However, paragraph [0246] of the specification discloses that in order to prevent leakage of confidential information to a third party, the confidential information is only provided in the attached data. Therefore, the mail data M2 does not contain confidential information (i.e., it contains "non-confidential information"). And therefore, the addition of the term "non-confidential information" in the claims is not new subject matter.

Furthermore, the attached data M3 contains secret information (confidential information) that indicates a condition of the management target device that is managed by the managing device (state of use and trouble information etc.) that can only be accessed with a dedicated program used by the managing device (specification, paragraphs [0144] and [0146]).

In contrast to this, Patterson discloses transmission of an e-mail to a recipient. The transmission includes an email attachment 120, as noted above, and header/body data (address contained in text field 108) indicating only the recipient of the information. Therefore, while Patterson discloses a transmission that includes (i) a header indicative of a destination and a title and (ii) attached data, Patterson does not disclose (iii) mail data according to the present invention as claimed. Moreover, Patterson does not disclose or suggest that email data (corresponding to "mail data" the present invention) is transmitted along with attachment 120 and header/body data. Also, neither Motoyama or Patterson disclose or suggest sending all three of (i) a header, (ii) attached data and (iii) mail data.

In short, Patterson discloses a different solution to a different problem. Patterson does not teach the claimed features of the present invention, suggest them. Nor do Patterson or Motoyama teach, suggest, or motivate a person skilled in the art to pick isolated aspects of these references, and then combine them in the way taught by the pending claims.

To reject claims 34 and 35, the Examiner also combines the Wong reference (claim 34) and U.S. Patent No. 5,740,230 to Vandreuil (claim 35). These references address only the detailed features of these dependent claims. These claims are allowable at least as ones depending from claim 1, which should be allowed.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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